

POINT GREY INTER-MENNONITE FELLOWSHIP

Web site: www.pgimf.org

March 10, 2019

First Sunday in Lent

Membership Sunday

Worship Leader: Veronica Dyck
Accompanist: Rosemary Bell

Music Worship: Angela Ruthven
Usher: Peter Neudorf

Last Sunday Thomas Bergen (Residence Coordinator at the Menno Simons Centre and alumnus of Regent College), continued his series on Mark: The Identity of Jesus. Jesus asked hundreds of questions and answered most questions posed to him with even more in reply, inspiring amazement in his listeners. As a Master Teacher, Jesus facilitated a learning process of self-discovery by telling stories and parables to describe the as-yet-unknown reality of the Kingdom of God. The Parable of the Soils in Mark 4 defines the 3 types of disciples who fail to fully learn from Christ: schmoozers (self-serving flatterers), flakes (like the rich young ruler, hoping for a different answer), and logic-choppers (questioning purely to impress). Are we asking the right questions? [KH]

The message can be heard in your favourite browser at <https://pgimf.org/service/jesus-the-teaching-one/>

PGIMF News - Upcoming Services

March 17	Kevin Hiebert	Perfectly Placed Artifacts
March 24	Heather Murray	A Modern Pilgrim
March 31	Jeff Borden	Recovery from Addiction
April 7	Thomas Bergen	Mark Series: The Identity of Jesus

Abendmusik Vespers Choir Come hear the Lenten Vespers, an hour of contemplative music and worship for the Lenten soul tonight at 7:30 pm at St. Philip's Anglican Church (3737 W. 27th Ave, Vancouver).

Blanket Exercise - gauging interest Lydia Cruttwell of Peace on 52nd Church is coordinating a presentation of the Blanket exercise, an emotional and representational history of the conversion of Turtle Island from the common property of all inhabitants of North America before European contact, to a welter of land titles and interests, political fiefdoms and clan battlegrounds with emphasis on its impact on original inhabitants. To be led by an expert presenter, Lydia is gauging interest among the Vancouver churches for an event to be held some evening or weekend between Easter Sunday and Victoria Day. If you would like to attend this event, please express your interest to Janice who will collect the information and pass it along to Lydia.

Pastor's Lunch PGIMF is hosting the monthly MCBC Pastor's Lunch on Tuesday March 12th at 11:30 am. PGIMF attenders are welcome to assist in putting on this lunch with their contributions and help in setting up and cleaning up. There is an offer for soup, so bread will be welcome.

Wider Church

West Point Grey Lenten Prayer Series You are invited to celebrate the Lenten season with six noon-time periods of reflection and prayer of 30 minutes followed by a simple lunch at the hosting congregations:

- March 13 St Helen's Anglican (4405 W. 8th Ave. Vancouver)
- March 20 West Point Grey United (4595 W. 8th Ave., Vancouver)
- March 27 St. Anselm's Anglican (5210 University Blvd, UBC)
- April 3 Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic (2465 Crown St., Vancouver)
- April 10 West Point Grey Baptist (4509 W. 11th Ave. Vancouver)

RECORDING THE SERVICE

Please note that we record the response time after the sermon. You are encouraged to share your thoughts as fully as you feel led with the proviso that no privacy can be guaranteed. The response time will not be posted to the website. You are encouraged to bring forth private issues during the time of sharing and prayer, which will not be recorded.

Moderator—Veronica Dyck (604-290-1627); Worship—J. Evan Kreider (604-228-1217);
Congregational Care—Lois Funk (604-992-8213); Recording Secretary--- Andre Pekovich (604-879-0007);
Music—Ruth Enns (604-987-7430); **At Large**—Travis Martin (604-603-7843); Chan Yang (778-681-1475);
Finance — Doug Medley (604-328-2980); Congregational Co-ordinator — Janice Kreider (604-228-1217)

MCC MCC workers and partners in Haiti are safe and the Port-au-Prince office is again open following nearly two weeks of unrest in the capital, which meant that some of Haiti's most vulnerable people were unable to find food, gas or potable water. We invite you to pray with us for the people of Haiti, for our partners and team, and for our work together toward safe and hopeful futures for Haitians and their country.

Regent College invites you to journey with an international team of Regent College students and Professor Diane Stinton to Nairobi, Kenya to ask: "How do we live in that challenging place where the gospel and culture meet?" Produced by Theran Knighton-Fitt and Melanie Brown, this new documentary film offers a glimpse into the many different cultural expressions of the gospel of Christ as students learn to listen to African Christians express their faith in Christ. Wednesday March 13th at noon in Room 230 at Regent College.

Christian Peacemaker Team (CPT) Colombia Delegation Mennonite Church Canada wants to introduce a group of sisters and brothers to the nonviolent accompaniment work of Christian Peacemaker Teams by sponsoring four persons in a delegation to Colombia, from June 26 to July 6, 2019. Meet human rights defenders who are working for a just peace in the Magdalena Medio region while exploring questions of faith and discipleship. For more information or to support, please email Steve Heinrichs (e-mail address available upon request) Director of Indigenous-Settler Relations for more details.

Vancouver School of Theology VST invites you to the G. Peter Kaye Lectures featuring Scottish hymn-writer and minister John Bell of the Iona Community as he speaks on three different aspects of Faith & Imagination in his mission of renewal of congregational worship at the grass roots. Three different lectures take place Friday, March 15th from 7-9pm at the Epiphany Chapel (6030 Chancellor Blvd, Vancouver); Saturday, March 16th from 9am-12pm at Christ Church Cathedral (690 Burrard St., Vancouver); and Sunday, March 17th at the St. Andrew's-Wesley United Church service (Century Plaza Hotel, 2nd-flr Ballroom, 1015 Burrard St., Vancouver) from 10:30-11:45 am. All three lectures are free to the public.

Call to Worship based on Psalm 91

Even as we enter the wilderness of Lent,

We rest in the shelter of the Most High;

We abide in the shadow of the Almighty;

We find refuge under the wings of our Holy Parent.

We trust that the angels of God

the words of God

the people of God

the hands of God

Will somehow bear us up.

And so we come to call on God

who has promised to answer. Amen.

<https://spaciousfaith.com/2016/02/11/worship-pieces-for-lent-1c/>

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

¹When you have come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, ²you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which

you harvest from the land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his name.

³You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, 'Today I declare to the Lord your God that I have come into the land that the Lord swore to our ancestors to give us.' ⁴When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the Lord your God, ⁵you shall make this response before the Lord your God: 'A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. ⁶When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labour on us, ⁷we cried to the Lord, the God of our ancestors; the Lord heard our voice and saw our

affliction, our toil, and our oppression. ⁸The Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; ⁹and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. ¹⁰So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O Lord, have given me.' You shall set it down before the Lord your God and bow down before the Lord your God. ¹¹Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the Lord your God has given to you and to your house. [NRSV]

Psalm 91

¹ You who live in the shelter of the Most High,
who abide in the shadow of the Almighty,
² will say to the Lord, 'My refuge and my fortress;
my God, in whom I trust.'
³ For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler
and from the deadly pestilence;
⁴ he will cover you with his pinions,
and under his wings you will find refuge;
his faithfulness is a shield and buckler.
⁵ You will not fear the terror of the night,
or the arrow that flies by day,
⁶ or the pestilence that stalks in darkness,
or the destruction that wastes at noonday.
⁷ A thousand may fall at your side,
ten thousand at your right hand,
but it will not come near you.
⁸ You will only look with your eyes
and see the punishment of the wicked.

⁹ Because you have made the Lord your refuge,
the Most High your dwelling-place,
¹⁰ no evil shall befall you,
no scourge come near your tent.
¹¹ For he will command his angels concerning you
to guard you in all your ways.
¹² On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.
¹³ You will tread on the lion and the adder,
the young lion and the serpent you will trample
under foot.
¹⁴ Those who love me, I will deliver;
I will protect those who know my name.
¹⁵ When they call to me, I will answer them;
I will be with them in trouble,
I will rescue them and honour them.
¹⁶ With long life I will satisfy them,
and show them my salvation. [NSRV]

Offering prayer

God of the wilderness,
We give these offerings in gratitude,
rejoicing in the abundance of your gifts to us.
We give these offerings in faith,
trusting that you will provide for our needs.
We give these offerings in hope,
knowing you can use them to spread your love in this world.
And with these offerings, we give ourselves;
May we live with generous hearts, with open hands. Amen

-Joanna Harader, <http://spaciousfaith.com/>

Romans 10:8b-15

'The word is near you,
on your lips and in your heart'
(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim);⁹ because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.¹⁰ For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved.¹¹ The scripture says, 'No one who believes in him will be put to shame.'¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on

him.¹³ For, 'Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

¹⁴ But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him?¹⁵ And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!' [NRSV]

Luke 4:1-13

¹ Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness,² where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished.³ The devil said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.'⁴ Jesus answered him, 'It is written, "One does not live by bread alone."'

⁵ Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world.⁶ And the devil said to him, 'To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please.'⁷ If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.'⁸ Jesus answered him, 'It is written,

"Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him."

⁹ Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here,¹⁰ for it is written, "He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you",¹¹ and "On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone."

¹² Jesus answered him, 'It is said, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test."'¹³ When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time. [NRSV]

A congregational response of gratitude and affirming covenant:

WE BELIEVE in God, Creator and Sustainer
and in Christ Jesus his Son, our Lord
and in the Holy Spirit, the companion of every believer.

WE RESOLVE to be a worshiping community
of Christ's disciples whose life together
illustrates God's mercy as we care for one another.

WE DECLARE that God calls us
to be faithful caretakers of the resources and gifts
which each has received from God's bountiful hand.

WE COMMIT ourselves to making visible God's kingdom
by calling people to faith in Christ and by promoting
justice and peace in God's world.

WE ACKNOWLEDGE with joy that only by God's grace
can we live this new life in Christ
and to that newness of life we commit ourselves.